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portant in its bearing upon the motives of the government, all are agreed. The value of the third source appears to be underestimated. We should like to see, for example, a consideration of the statement that the conspirators took the title of the Assertors of Liberty, and of King James's assertion that a certain form of prayer was set down and used among English Catholics for the good success of that great errand, the conspiracy.

We must content ourselves with this general summary of the status of the question, and conclude by expressing our belief that Father Gerard has succeeded in placing the question upon a historical basis. It was proper for Coke and Jeffries to start their investigations with a hypothesis, but it will hardly do for historians, whatever the sanctions of the hypothesis. We are convinced also that it has been shown that the ends of the government were more than the simple ends of justice, and that although many objections have been successfully met by Professor Gardiner, in the main contention Father Gerard is right: we do not know the history of the plot, that is, we do not know all about it (Gerard 708), which is much of a platitude after all.

W. D. JOHNSTON.

Histoire Générale du IV^e Siècle à nos Jours. Publiée sous la direction de MM. ERNEST LAVISSE et ALFRED RAMBAUD. Tome VII. Le XVIII^e Siècle (1715-1788). (Paris: Armand Colin et Cie. 1896. Pp. 1051.)

Periods of European History. Period VI. The Balance of Power, (1715-1789). By ARTHUR HASSALL, M.A. (New York: The Macmillan Co. 1896. Pp. viii, 433.)

THE eighteenth century has suffered much at the hands of historians. Writers whose eyes are fixed upon the political and material progress of the nineteenth century have been wont to look at the great French Revolution as commencing the era of popular government in Europe and have never wearied in drawing a contrast between the more advanced and more general civilization of the present century, which is, after all, largely the result of modern inventions and improved means of communication, and that of its predecessor. To the political thinker the eighteenth century, with its absolute governments, its cynical statesmen, and its selfish wars, is only made tolerable by the rise towards its close of the spirit of popular liberty, made manifest in the American Revolution. To the economist, it is a century of hide-bound prejudice, retarding the growth of the world's prosperity. To the student of society, it is not even relieved by the writings of Rousseau and the work of Howard from being the period in which the line between classes was most distinctly drawn and when the rich and noble were most careless and contemptuous of the poor and humble. It is a truism among writers that the eighteenth century has all the characteristics, moral, material, and political, of a decaying age, in which old systems and old ideas which have ex-

hausted their vitality are passing away, leaving a world which could only be regenerated by national revolutions and international wars. But this judgment fails to take into consideration the fact that it was in the eighteenth century that the new ideas were born ; that it was in the eighteenth century that great rulers in Europe, sometimes kings and sometimes statesmen, tried to clear away the relics of an outgrown past by the abolition of serfdom and by other reforms ; and that it was in the eighteenth century, just when absolutist government was nearing its fall, that absolutism almost justified its existence during the power of the "Enlightened Despots." The two volumes which have suggested these remarks do not attempt to explain this much maligned eighteenth century ; they simply contain narratives of its events. If a fault could be found with them, it would perhaps be that they do not bring together in harmonious fashion the great current of reform which, extending from Russia to Portugal and from Sweden to Naples, is the most striking feature of the age that preceded the French Revolution.

Every student of history is already acquainted with the earlier volumes of the great *Histoire Générale* which a number of the leading French historians have for some years been publishing under the able editorship of MM. Lavissee and Rambaud. The volume on the eighteenth century is, like its predecessors, written on the co-operative plan, and the only pity is that it could not have been made still more widely co-operative. Without intending any reflections on the excellent scholars who have written the chapters on the American Revolution, on Frederick the Great and on the England of Walpole, Pitt and George III., it must be said that it would have been more satisfactory if such chapters had been the work of American, German and English scholars. It would have been possible for such chapters to have been translated into French and for the widest circulation to have thus been given to them. As it is, the volume has necessarily a French flavor. To this the less exception can be made since the part played by different countries in the entangled politics of eighteenth-century Europe is treated with absolute fairness. The point of view, however, remains French. One reflection that arises from carefully reading the volume is the large amount of space given to Russia and to the development of Russia's part in Continental affairs. A few years ago, certainly, much smaller space would have been devoted to Russian history in a work of this description. Then European scholars were in a blissful state of ignorance with regard to Russian history and were content to take their estimate of Russian affairs from the flimsy memoirs of western adventurers, who had seen something of the strange courts of the three Russian empresses whose reigns cover the greater part of the eighteenth century. But France has in these latter days made herself the interpreter of Russian history, as previously of Russian literature, to the rest of the civilized world. MM. Rambaud, Pingaud and Vandal, to mention three of the most learned contributors to the present volume, have all made their reputation as historians by studies in Russian history. Their excellent acquaintance with Rus-

sian primary and secondary authorities is shown not only in their narratives but also in the learned bibliographies they have appended to their respective chapters. The excellence of the work done by the Russian government in the publication of historical sources, and by the modern school of Russian historians is not generally known upon this side of the Atlantic Ocean; but it may be safely asserted that, for the future, any student or teacher of European history who intends to deal with recent centuries, should add to his equipment of French and German a competent knowledge of the Russian language. Without this aid, he has to depend entirely on French and German secondary writers and he may well fear that the partiality of the one nation, or the antipathy of the other, may falsely interpret the true course of Russian history. It is not too much to say, that the light thrown upon Russian policy by recent writers has entirely modified the old view of regarding Russian history as of no importance, because of the difficulty of learning the Russian language. One important side of the eighteenth-century history deals with the Eastern question in its Swedish, Polish and Turkish phases, and these cannot be studied without a grasp of Russian history. Mr. A. C. Coolidge a year ago made in the pages of this REVIEW a plea for the study of the history of Northern Europe, which, if it needed support, might well find it in the elaborate bibliographies of Russian documents, secondary histories and articles in periodicals contained on pp. 259, 425-428, 515-521. It may be well to draw attention to a few special chapters and to one or two special points after dwelling upon this more general theme. The chapter on the American War of Independence is contributed by M. A. Moireau, and fills more than forty pages. M. Moireau has made a special study of the history of the United States, on which he published the first two volumes of a projected work in 1892. His account of events is necessarily very brief and naturally brings into prominence the part played by France, but it is admirably lucid and his bibliography shows a knowledge of the historical literature on the period. As much perhaps cannot be said for the forty pages upon England under the first three Georges, contributed by M. E. Sayous, who, indeed, writes with eminent fairness, just proportion and sound knowledge, but whose acquaintance with authorities, as shown in his bibliography, is not very extended. As might be expected, the chapters on France are more ample and more thorough, and special attention may be drawn to the brilliant little chapter on the economic condition of France from 1720 to 1788 by M. Levasseur. The chapter on Germany by M. Blondel and the chapters on Italy and Spain by M. Orsi are perhaps too brief to be in proper proportion, but as far as they go they are excellent. The chapters describing the great European wars of the eighteenth century precede the special chapters on different countries and are written by such recognized authorities as M. Vandal, M. Pingaud and M. Vast. But the most valuable part of the volume to the student of modern European history will be without doubt, as has already been implied, the two excellent chapters on Russia covering nearly 150 pages contributed by the distinguished editor, M. Alfred Rambaud.

It is inevitable that English names should be misspelt by French printers. The care of the editors has made these misprints fewer and less ludicrous than usual, but M. Moireau has thrice let *Abercombie* escape him on p. 530; Chatham appears once, but only once, without his last *h* (p. 258); *Stairs* appears for *Stair*; Sir Joshua Reynolds twice appears as *Sir Josuah* (p. 797); and most extraordinary of all, as showing whence the author must have got his information on English architecture, the Radcliffe Library at Oxford is represented as the *Radcliff Bibliothek* (p. 796) in the article on Art in Europe by M. André Michel.

Mr. Arthur Hassall's little book does not, of course, pretend to give the same thoroughness of treatment to the period as the big volume of the *Histoire Générale*. It is strictly confined to international politics and gives of them the most convenient account, in a brief compass, that is accessible to students. Mr. Hassall is that one of the group of Oxford history tutors who designed the series of *Periods of European History* of which several volumes have now been published. He had to deal with a period of exceptional difficulty and his experience as a teacher shows itself both in what he inserts and in what he omits. The volume is intended, like the rest of the series, for a humble but useful purpose, namely, to give university students of history a first idea of a period which they are afterwards to study more minutely, to be a guide, in short, rather than a text-book or a treatise. It is in all respects the best book of its kind and on its period in the English language, but it should not be regarded as a definitive book, but rather as a basis for further study. It may be noted in conclusion, to touch on a minor point of difference, that Mr. Hassall seems to have a much higher opinion of Choiseul as a statesman than M. Rambaud, who is inclined to place the idol of former French historians of the eighteenth century upon a very low pedestal indeed.

H. MORSE STEPHENS.

L'État et les Églises en Prusse sous Frédéric-Guillaume I^{er}, 1713–1740. By GEORGES PARISSET. (Paris: Armand Colin et Cie. 1897. Pp. xx, 989.)

THAT such an elaborate study of a single epoch of Prussian history should be undertaken by a French scholar for French readers is as surprising as it is pleasing. M. Pariset has not only chosen a theme which is entirely German, but he has treated it with a minuteness and exhaustiveness thoroughly German. Indeed his book gives evidence that he has almost out-Germaned the Germans in their own particular field. After many years of patient and laborious investigation, during which he has consulted almost every possible source, even the most obscure and local, he has given us a work which, so far as information at least is concerned, leaves little to be desired. The title would seem to indicate that the book is devoted to an investigation of the ecclesiastical institutions of Prussia under the second king; as a matter of fact the study is more than